

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed August 13, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 - 11 and 13 - 21 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has added claim 21, has amended claims 1, 4 and 13 - 15, and has canceled claim 12 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claim 12 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claim in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 4, 6 – 9, and 13 - 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Lin*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Turning first to *Lin*, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Lin* involves an editing method in a multimedia synchronous training system. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Lin* does not involve a document processing system, much less a document processing system as recited in the presently pending claims. For instance, the Office Action indicates at page 4 that the document processing device of *Lin* is configured to produce a document. However, the portion of *Lin* indicated as disclosing such a system discloses the following:

FIG. 2B shows a flow diagram further illustrating the icon and prompt windows (or bubble) settings in the step representative of the block 106 in FIG. 1. After an icon setting procedure is activated (block 211), the icons or characters of the prompt windows are loaded (block 212). If the file under editing is a new file, default icons and characters are loaded, and the default parameters are then modified when necessary. On the other hand, stored icons or characters are loaded when the file under editing is an old one. The modifications of the icons and the characters are performed respectively in block 213 and 215. The icons may be modified (block 214) by covering

directly on an existent icon, or modifying on the icons partially. The characters are preferably edited (block 217) in a normal input manner. After the icons or the characters are edited, a test (block 217) is performed. Some associated parameters, such as the position of the icons or the font type and size of the characters, may be changed when necessary in block 218. Finally, the resulting setting in FIG. 2B is schematically displayed for users' reference (block 219).

Applicants respectfully assert that neither this nor any other portion of *Lin* relates to a document processing system as recited in the presently pending claims.

Turning now to the claims, claim 1 recites:

1. A document processing system for modifying image data, the image data including a foreground component and a background component, said document processing system comprising:

a document processing device operative to acquire image data corresponding to a document by scanning the document; and an image enhancement system configured to communicate with the document processing device and receive the image data acquired, receive information corresponding to a request for modification of the image data, and, in response to the request, modify the image data by increasing contrast between the foreground component and the background component and altering lightness of both the foreground component and the background component, wherein said document processing device is configured to produce a document with the image data modified by the image enhancement system.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Lin* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Lin* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1, and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 - 4 and 6 - 9 and 21 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis of patentability.

With respect to claim 13, that claim recites:

13. A method for modifying image data, the image data including a foreground component and a background component, said method comprising:
 - receiving image data corresponding to *a document to be printed by a document processing device*;
 - receiving information corresponding to a request for modification of the image data, the request corresponding to actuation of an actuator of the document processing device; and*
 - in response to the request, modifying the image data by increasing contrast between the foreground component and the background component and altering lightness of both the foreground component and background component.*

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Lin* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 13. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Lin* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 13, and that claim 13 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 14 - 19 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 13, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis of patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lin* in view of *Kim*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 10, 11, 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lin* in view of *Schreiber*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Specifically, Applicant has set forth various deficiencies of the *Lin* reference under the section of this response entitled “Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102.” As the Office Action does not cite any teachings to remedy these deficiencies, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is also deficient. In particular, Applicant respectfully

asserts that neither *Lin* nor *Schreiber* teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations recited in independent claim 1, from which claims 5, 10 and 11 depend, or independent claim 13, from which dependent claim 20 depends. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections are improper and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, Applicant has added new claim 21 and respectfully asserts that this claim is in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 21 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 1 and respectfully asserts that, for at least this reason, claim 21 is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

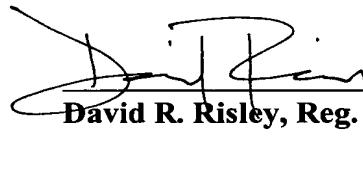
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 9/9/04.

Stephanie Riley
Signature